

Office Action mailed September 26, 2003 to provide Applicants with a response period to correct the submission in order to avoid abandonment. Applicants respectfully submit herewith this amendment and reply to the final Office Action mailed March 28, 2003 in order to correct the non-responsive submission filed on July 28, 2003. Applicants wish to note that the finality of the Office Action has been withdrawn under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and Applicants' submission filed on July 28, 2003 has been entered.

Amendments to Claims Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)

Applicants respectfully request amendment of claims 3, 5 and 24, and addition of new claims 27-35, as provided below.

3. (Previously amended) The coating composition of claim 24 further comprising a viscosity-modifying agent.

5. (Previously amended) The coating composition of claim 24 further comprising a lubricant.

6. Cancelled.

10. (Previously amended) The coating composition of claim 25 further comprising a viscosity-modifying agent.

11. (Previously amended) The coating composition of claim 25 further comprising a lubricant.
20. (Previously amended) The aqueous coating composition of claim 26, wherein the viscosity-modifying agent is selected from the group consisting of alkyl celluloses, acrylamide polymers and mixtures thereof.
24. (Currently amended) A coating composition for an article comprising:  
a superabsorbent water-soluble polymer precursor in aqueous solution, ~~wherein~~ the superabsorbent water-soluble polymer precursor is being a polyacrylate selected from the group consisting of water-soluble polyacrylates that cross-link when heated within a range of temperatures that permits a cross-linked polyacrylate formed therefrom to absorb water upon contact and to desorb water when dry.
26. (Previously presented) An aqueous coating composition comprising:  
a superabsorbent polymer, wherein said superabsorbent polymer is selected from the group consisting of anionic alkali salts and alkali metal salts of a superabsorbent polymer;  
a viscosity-modifying agent; and  
a binder.
27. (New) The coating composition of claim 24 wherein the cross-linked polyacrylate absorbs up to about 400 times its initial dry weight when exposed to an aqueous environment.

28. (New) The coating composition of claim 24 wherein the range of temperature includes a temperature of one of less than 280° F and approximately 280° F.
29. (New) The coating composition of claim 24 wherein the water-soluble polyacrylates are selected from the group consisting of anionic alkali salts and alkali metal salts of a water-soluble polyacrylate.
30. (New) The coating composition of claim 24 further comprising:  
a binder, the binder being selected from the group consisting of thermosetting binders compatible with the superabsorbent water-soluble polymer precursor in aqueous solution such that mixture of the superabsorbent water-soluble polymer precursor and the binder is promoted.
31. (New) The coating composition of claim 30 wherein the binder is a thermosetting binder selected from the group consisting of a polyester, a polyurethane, an epoxy, latex and combinations thereof.
32. (New) The coating composition of claim 31 wherein the thermosetting binder includes a film-forming polyurethane.
33. (New) The aqueous coating composition of claim 26 wherein the superabsorbent polymer absorbs up to about 400 times its initial dry weight when exposed to an aqueous environment.